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Applicants cancel claims 6, 12, 14, 22-23, and 25-26. Claims 2-3 and 24 have previously been canceled. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-11, 13, 15-21, and 27-28 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1, 8, and 13 to incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 6, amend claims 8 and 13 to further incorporate features that correspond to those of claims 12 and 14, respectively, and amend claim 8 for a minor correction. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the finding that claim 6 incorporates allowable subject matter, and respectfully submit that the provided reasons for allowability include only the Examiner's non-exhaustive interpretations—which should in no way limit the scope of the allowable claim.

Claims 1, 4-5, 8-11, 13, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0967559 to Chueng-Hsien et al. in view of "Multiwavelength Cross-Connects for Optical Transport Networks" by Zhong et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,583,994 to Rangan, and further in view of 6,405,256 to Lin et al.; claims 22-23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chueng-Hsien et al. and Zhong et al., Lin et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049730 to Brendes et al.; claims 7, 12, 14, and 17-21 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chueng-Hsien et al., Zhong et al., Rangan, Lin et al., and Brendes et al.; and claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chueng-Hsien et al., Zhong et al., Rangan, Lin et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,005 to Dugan et al.

The Examiner conducted an informal telephone interview on May 29, 2007 with Applicants' undersigned representative, Mr. Dexter Chang (Reg. No. 44,071), for which

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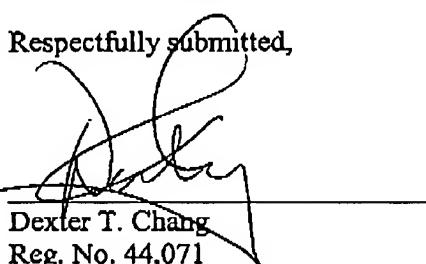
Applicants thank the Examiner. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the following changes to the claims, incorporated herein, would place the application in condition for allowance:

- a) incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 6 in claims 1, 8, and 13;
- b) incorporate features that correspond to those of claims 12 and 14 in claims 8 and 13, respectively;
- c) amend claim 8 to change the term "together" to "simultaneously"; and
- d) cancel claims 22-23 and 25-26.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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